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AMERICA AND AMERICANS

an Address by

EDWARD DEAN ADAMS



To the
EXECUTIVE STAFF AND EMPLOYEES
of the
ALL AMERICA CABLES, INC.
AT THEIR ANNUAL DINNER
December 20, 1919
New York City

"All Red, White and Blue Lines"



89 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK

AMERICA AND AMERICANS

The Name and its Significance

ON JANUARY 31, 1862, when lecturing in Washington before an audience which included President Lincoln, Ralph Waldo Emerson said:

"America is another word for Opportunity"

WE, of the staff of the All America Cables, who study the business of our organization and strive to promote its interests, appreciate the vision of its founder, James A. Scrymser, when he availed of his opportunity to extend his cable enterprise into the continent we now know to be the original America. In our plans of development by an increase of our territory of usefulness in the southern continent of this hemisphere, we realize that it is indeed a land of opportunity.

By acquaintance with the history of its peoples we understand that we have not hitherto fully appreciated that they have a prior claim to the designation of America and Americans which we may have assumed, in part at least, for our own country and people.

Attention is therefore invited to some of the circumstances that make the new and popular title, ALL AMERICA CABLES, a fitting one for our Company.

Discoveries made within the last 25 years have supplied some pages that were missing in the history of a period more than 400 years ago, and have changed opinions and corrected errors which had prevailed for several centuries, as to how the New World came to be called AMERICA.

The great publicity accorded the discoveries of Christopher Columbus by reason of the royal patronage he enjoyed, and the pathetic drama of his later life and death, have given to this discoverer the admiration and sympathy of all people, whereas the voyages of Americus Vesputius, told only in his own brief

letters, have been doubted by historians as to their number and dates, and yet nearly one-third of the land of this globe had, within a few years after his voyages and five years before his death, been known and recorded on the maps of most all nations as AMERICA.

It is noteworthy that there is no suggestion whatever in any of the letters attributed to Vesputius that the newly discovered world should be given his name or any other name.

In the lack of information and the heat of controversy, the prevailing sense of justice would long ago have given the name of Columbus to the New World, had it been practicable to have altered maps, histories, treaties, laws and literature into which the name America had become so promptly and thoroughly adopted. Many attempts have been made during the past century to change the name of this country from America to Columbia. The appreciation of what the name Columbus stands for is shown by the extended use of this name, in several variations, in the designation of 98 towns, counties, cities and rivers in these United States. The name Americus or its derivatives is used 16 times, while the name Vesputius does not appear anywhere in this country as a title to objects of nature or the results of civilization.

It is this sentiment of fairness to Columbus that has prompted writers of many nations, in the absence of definite information to the contrary, to incorporate into their histories and geographies such phrases as we find in our own school books and works of reference, to the effect that Americus Vesputius was a famous Italian navigator who gave his name to the New World.

No less eminent a scholar than Ralph Waldo Emerson is responsible for the following statement made in 1856, in his "English Traits":

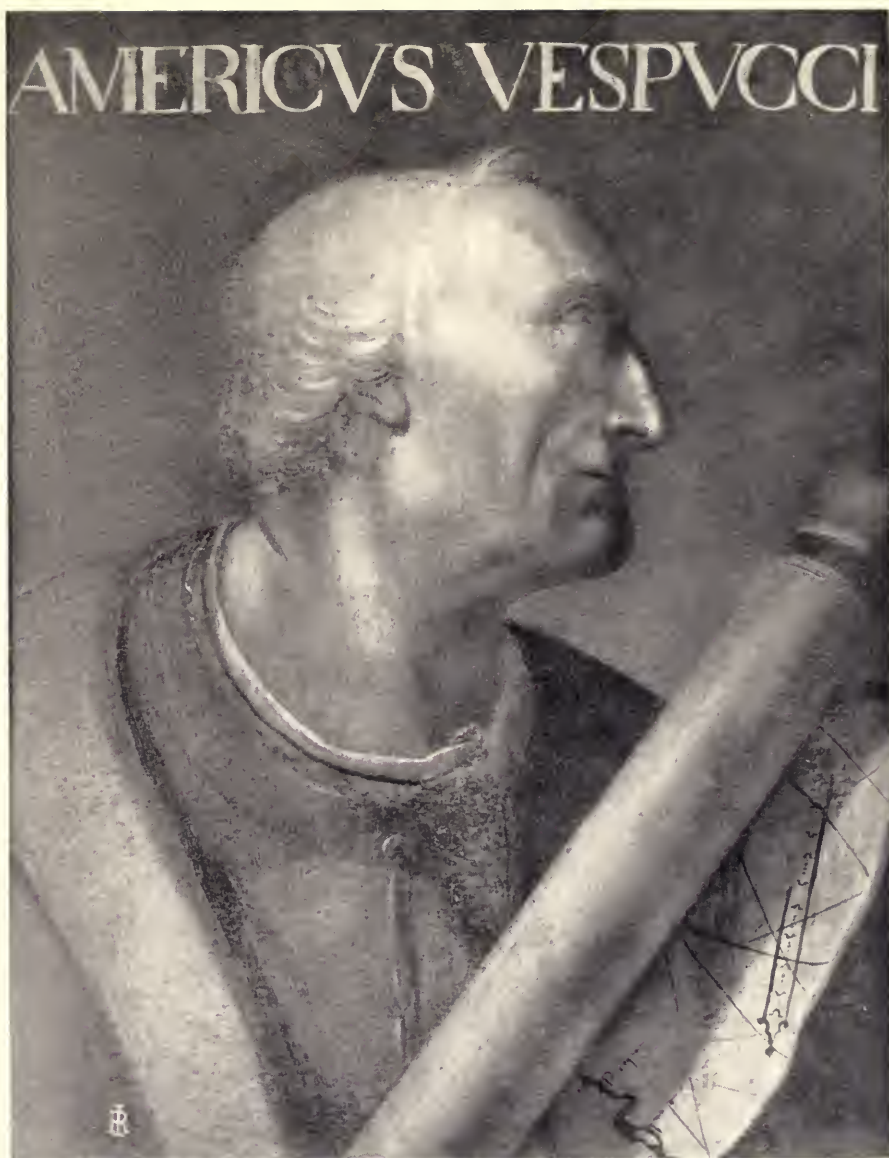
"Strange that broad America must wear the name of a thief, Amerigo Vesputi, the pickle dealer of Seville, who went out in 1499, a subaltern with Hojeda, and whose highest naval rank was boatswain's mate in an expedition that never sailed, managed in this lying world to supplant Columbus and baptize half the earth with his own dishonest name."

(*Riverside Edition*, 1883, Vol. 2, Page 148.)

In 1892, however, John Fiske, the historian, wrote:

"No competent scholar anywhere will now be found to dissent from the emphatic statement of M. Harrisse: 'After diligent study of all the original documents, we feel constrained to say that there is not a particle of evidence, direct or indirect, implicating Americus Vesputius in any attempt to foist his name on this continent.'"

(*Bibliotheca Americana Vetustissima*, New York, 1866, Page 65)



AMERICUS VESPUCIUS

Oil Painting No. 702—UFFIZI GALLERY, FLORENCE

Where it is claimed to have been in 1568

*Americus vespucius
Filius nr*

Facsimile signature of AMERICUS VESPUCIUS. Signed to a letter dated Trivio Mugelli, October 18, 1476, addressed to his father; recently acquired by a private collector in New York City

It thus becomes of interest to review the historical record of the life of Americus Vespucius and to ascertain the circumstances under which this continent, with its three great subdivisions, became known as AMERICA.

The navigator generally known as Americus Vespucius, the Latinized name of the Italian, Amerigo Vespucci, was born in Florence, on March 9, 1452, of a distinguished family that had then resided in that city for more than 100 years.

He was educated for a commercial career, and is said to have made great progress in natural philosophy, astronomy and cosmography, the sciences connected with navigation, in which the Florentine nobility was specially instructed at that period.

He went to Spain in 1490, when he was 39 years old, and is reported to have been at Seville in 1492 when Columbus was preparing for a voyage of exploration, as well as in 1493 when Columbus returned. Vespucius at this time was an agent for, or partner with, Lorenzo de' Medici (cousin of Lorenzo the Magnificent), and later for Juanoto Berardi, of Florence, to whom was given the contract to prepare the fleet for the second voyage of "Don Cristóbal Colon, Admiral of the Ocean Sea and Viceroy of the Indies."

Ancient documents, discovered by a Spanish historian about the year 1800, indicate that Vespucius was engaged in 1497 in preparing the fleet in which Columbus made his third voyage. About this period, it appears from a letter he wrote in 1504 to his friend, Piero Soderini, Gonfalonier of Florence, Vespucius abandoned mercantile life and prepared himself for world quest by further studies in astronomy and cosmography, in which he became proficient. He appears to have been, at the request of the patron King, the authorized astronomer or chief pilot of the fleets in which his voyages were made. He was recognized and honored as the greatest navigator of his time by the people of Portugal and of Florence.

His first voyage was from Cadiz on May 10, 1497, with a fleet of four ships under the command, it is believed, of Vicente Pinzon, with Vespucius as pilot and cosmographer, through the great western ocean, returning October 15, 1498 after exploration of land "within the Torrid Zone, under the parallel which describes the Tropic of Cancer." Historians consider the description given to indicate visits to the islands of Grenada and St. Vincent as now known, and that the voyage was chiefly along the coasts of Honduras, Yucatan, Mexico, and Florida, and possibly as far north as Chesapeake Bay.

The second voyage, of three ships in company, was made from June 1499 to September 1500, under the flag of Castile, and under the command of Alonzo de Hojeda. This voyage extended along the northern coast of South America, from some point on what would now be called the north coast of Brazil, to the Pearl Coast, and beyond to the Gulf of Maracaibo.

The third voyage, from Lisbon, May 1501, was undertaken in the service of King Emanuel of Portugal, and extended southward along the coast of Brazil, discovering the Bay of Rio de Janeiro, and probably the mouth of the River de la Plata, and beyond the latitude of the Cape of Good Hope. This voyage was described at length in a letter to his friend, Piero Soderini, as well as by three letters to his patron, Lorenzo de' Medici, in the last of which Vesputius writes:

"In days past I gave your excellency a full account of my return, and if I remember aright wrote you a description of all those parts of the new world which I had visited in the ships of His Highness, the King of Portugal. Carefully considered, they appear truly to form another world, and therefore we have not without reason called it the NEW WORLD.

"Beyond the equinoctial line I found countries more fertile and more densely inhabited than I have ever found anywhere else, even in Asia, Africa and Europe. "We sailed from Lisbon, which is nearly forty degrees distant from the equinoctial line, toward the north, to this country which is fifty degrees on the other side of the line. The sum of these degrees is ninety and is the fourth part of the circumference of the globe, according to the reckoning of the ancients, and it is therefore manifest to all that we measured the fourth part of the earth."

This letter, during the absence of Vesputius on his fourth voyage, was translated from Italian into Latin by Giovanni Giocondo, an eminent scholar of Verona, then living in Paris, and was printed in a condensed form as a little quarto of four pages with the title "Mundus Novus" or "New World," which was widely circulated in Europe. Henry N. Stevens esteems this quarto as "one of the most precious documents in the world."

John Fiske states:

"This voyage made a great sensation in Europe. It proved the existence of an inhabited continent hitherto unvisited by civilized man in the southern hemisphere. What could it be? If you look at the Mela map you will see how it was regarded. Mela believed there was a great southern continent, which he called the 'Opposite World.' Geographers often called it the 'Fourth Part,' Europe, Asia, and Africa were three parts of the earth, and Mela's southern continent was the fourth. Nobody had ever visited this Fourth Part, and many people doubted its existence. Now Americus was supposed to have proved its existence. It was thought that Columbus and Cabot had reached Asia, and that Americus had coasted along a great southern continent south of Asia. The coast of Brazil was naturally thought to be the coast of the Fourth Part."

COSMOGRAPHIAE INTRODV.
CTIO / CVM Q VIBVS
DAM GEOME
TRIAE
AC
ASTRONO
MIAE PRINCIPIIS AD
EAM REM NECESSARIIS:

Insuper quatuor Americi Ves
pucij navigationes.

Vniuersalis Cosmographiæ descriptio
ram in solido q̃ plano/eis etiam
infertis quæ Ptholomæo
ignota a nuperis
reperta sunt.

DISTICHON.

Cum deus astra regat/& terræ climata Cæsar
Nec tellus nec eis sydera maius habent.

(Translation)

INTRODUCTION TO COSMOGRAPHY
together with

Some Principles of Geometry and Astronomy
Necessary to the Purpose

Also
Four Navigations of
Americus Vesputius

A Representation of Universal Cosmography
Both in Solido and in Plano

What to Ptolemy was Unknown
and Lately Discovered

DISTICH

Neither earth nor stars possess anything greater
than God and Caesar, as God rules the stars,
and Caesar the climes of the earth

“We can now begin to understand the intense and wildly absorbing interest with which people read the brief story of the third voyage of Vesputius, and we can see that in the nature of that interest there was nothing calculated to bring it into comparison with the work of Columbus. The two navigators were not regarded as rivals in doing the same thing, but as men who had done two very different things, and to give credit to the one was by no means equivalent to withholding credit from the other.”

(Riverside Edition, 1883, Vol. 2, Page 129)

The significance of Vesputius' letter is in the fact that it describes the discovery of the entire eastern coast of the South American continent, without knowing of its terminus at the Straits, which it has been generally understood were not traversed by their discoverer, Magellan, until 1520.

Vesputius returned to Lisbon in 1502, and in May 1503, at the urgent request of the King of Portugal, started with six ships in company on his fourth voyage,



QVARTA

ce multū & vltraq; sit credibile festiug suscepit futū
mus: ob id q; ipsa tota ciuitas nos in mari disperdit
tos esse existimabat: quēadmodū reliqui omnes de
turba nostra p̄fecti nri nauū stultā p̄sumptio
nē extiterāt. Quo superbiā modo iustus omniū cē
lor deus cōpensat. Et ita nūc apud Lisbonā ipsam
substituto ignorans quid de me serenissimus ipse rex
deinceps efficere cogitet: q; a tantis laboribus meis
iam exnunc requiescere plurimū peroptarem/ hūc
nunciū maiestati vestre plurimū quoq; interdū cō
mendans. Americus Vesputius in Lisbona.

COSMOGRPHIAE

Capadociam/Pamphiliam/Lidiam/Ciliciā/Armē
nias maiorē & minorē.Colchiden/Hircaniā/Hie
beriam/Albaniā:et pręterea mltas quas singulatim
enumerare longa mora esset.Ita dicta ab eius nomi
nis regina.

Nūc ꝑo & hę partes sunt latius iustratę:& alia
quarta pars per Americū Vesputiū(vt in sequenti
bus audietur) inuenta est/quā non video cur quis
iure vetet ab Americo inuentore sagacis ingenij vi
ro Amerigen quasi Americi terrā / siue Americam
dicendū: cū & Europa & Asia a mulieribus sua for
rita sint nomina.Eius sitū & gentis mores ex bis hi
nis Americi nauigationibus quę sequunt̄ liquide
intelligi datur.

Hunc in modū terra iam quadripartita cognō
sciū:et sunt tres primę partes cōtinentes/quarta est
insula:cū omni quaq; mari circūdata conspiciat̄.Et
licet mare vnū sit quēadmodū et ipsa tellus/multis
tamen sinibus distinctum / & innumeris repletum
insulis varia sibi noīa assumit: quę et in Cosmogra
phia tabulis cōspiciunt̄:& Priscianus in tralatione
Dionisi talibus enumerat versibus.

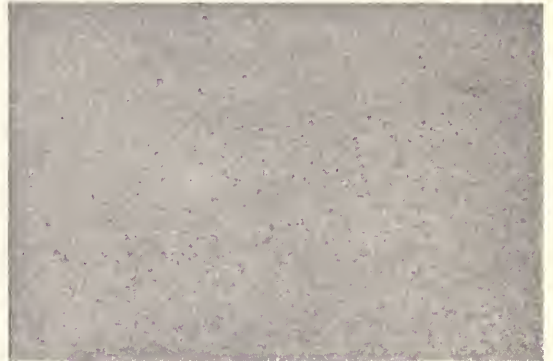
Circuit Oceani gurges tamen vndiq; vastus
Qui ꝑuis vnus sit plurima nomina sumit.
Finibus Hesperij Athlanticus ille vocatur
At Boreę qua gens fuit Armiaspa sub armis
Diciū ille piger necnō Satur.idē Mortuus est alijs:

Prestitit & ipsa cadē Christo monimenta fauēte
Tempore venturo cetera multa premet.



Finitū.vij.kl.Maij
Anno supra sesqui
millelūmum.vij.

Vhs Deo dote tuo clarescens nomine preful
Qua Vogel montis sunt iuga prestitit opus



(Translation of portion of above pages)

But now these parts have been more extensively explored and another fourth part has been discovered by Americus Vesputius (as will appear in what follows): Wherefore I do not see what is rightly to hinder us from calling it AMERIGE, or AMERICA, *i.e.*, the land of Americus, after its discoverer, Americus, a man of sagacious mind, since both Europe and Asia have got their names from women. Its situation and the manners and customs of its people will be clearly understood from the twice two voyages of Americus, which follow.

Finished April 25, 1507

in the hope of finding a strait through the continent, by which India might be reached. He returned to Lisbon from this voyage June 18, 1504.

By the letter written by Vespucci in Lisbon a few months after his return from this, his fourth voyage, to his Florentine friend, Soderini, it appears that this voyage did not result according to his wishes, on account of a disaster to the fleet, in which the ship of Vespucci was separated by a storm, and sailed to a country situated, he relates, eighteen degrees south of the equinoctial line, and fifty-seven degrees farther west than Lisbon.

Upon his return to Spain in 1504, Vespucci was in high favor with King Ferdinand, who, on March 22, 1508, created the office of Pilot-Major of Spain, and appointed Vespucci thereto, as the most eminent navigator of his kingdom. Vespucci then became Chief of a Government Department pertaining to pilotage, navigation, and charts. He was directed to examine all pilots, instruct applicants, issue certificates of ability that were required before employment, and to supervise the preparation of a standard or Royal Chart by which all pilots were to be governed. The position was of great honor, with important emolument, and its onerous duties were discharged with fidelity and skill.

During this service Vespucci made one short visit to Florence, where his portrait was painted and he was otherwise honored as one of its most distinguished sons. Giorgio Vasari, the painter, art critic and historian of Florence, who made a list in 1568 of painters represented in the collection of illustrious persons, founded by Casimo I, de' Medici, referred therein to a portrait of Amerigo Vespucci, which is said to have been identified by the authorities of the Royal Uffizi Gallery of Florence as that numbered 702 in their present catalogue of 533 portraits of illustrious Tuscans. This portrait, a reproduction of which is hereto annexed, has been considered by some as a portrait from life, and has formed the basis for many of the portraits in America.

Before departure on his great voyage, the third, Vespucci married Dona Maria Carezo, of Seville, who shared his honors at the Spanish Court, and survived him several years.

By reason of the active part taken by the Florentine Berardi in outfitting the ships for the several voyages of Columbus, Americus Vespucci, as the partner of Berardi, in charge of the preparations, became well acquainted with Columbus, who in a letter written at Seville on February 5, 1506, to his son, about one year after the publication of Vespucci's letter to Lorenzo de' Medici and during

the absence of both Columbus and Vespuccius on their respective voyages of exploration, states:

“I held converse with Amerigo Vespucci, the bearer of this letter, who goes to Court on some business connected with navigation. He has always been desirous of serving me, and is an honorable man, though fortune has been unpropitious to him, as to many others, and his labors have not been as profitable as he deserves. He goes on my account, and with a great desire to do something which may redound to my advantage if it is in his power.”

Americus Vespuccius died February 22, 1512, at Seville, when he was 60 years of age after about four years in office as Pilot-Major of the Kingdom of Spain. He died, as it is written by Frederick A. Ober, in his “Amerigo Vespucci,” “with a name untarnished, a reputation for probity unsullied.”

John Fiske describes him as follows:

“He seems in these earlier years, as throughout his life, to have won and retained the respect of all who knew him, as a man of integrity and modesty, quiet but somewhat playful in manner, mild and placable in temper, and endowed with keen intelligence. He seems to have been of middle height and somewhat brawny, with aquiline features and olive complexion, black eyes and hair, and a mouth at once firm and refined.”

He was highly honored by the Kings of Spain and Portugal, and the rulers of Italy, but, as he left no fortune, his widow was dependent upon the pension granted her by the Crown in a royal decree issued three months after Vespuccius' death.

A newspaper item from Florence under date of April 10, 1910, announces the death of his last descendant, the Countess Amerigo Vespucci, at the age of ninety-three, a Spanish pensioner, in succession of her great ancestor.

In 1719 a marble tablet was placed over the entrance to the house in Florence, which “for centuries before the discovery of America was the dwelling place of the ancestors of Amerigo Vespucci, and his own birthplace,” bearing the inscription:

*“To Americo Vespuccio, a noble Florentine, who, by the
Discovery of America
Rendered his own and his Country's name illustrious.
The Amplifier of the World.”*

Such are the facts in the life of Americus Vespuccius. It may now be of interest to learn how the name America came to be applied to the land which Vespuccius called the New World. This inquiry leads us along another trail of history, but of literature and not of adventure.



UNIVERSALIS

COSMOGRAPHIA

SECUNDUM PTHOLOMEI TRADITIONEM

TRADITIONEM

WALDSEEMÜLLER

LER MAP of 1507

René II de Vandemont, reigning Duke of Lorraine and titular King of Sicily and of Jerusalem, was born in 1451, son of Ferry II, Count of Vandemont and Yolande of Anjou. After his defeat of Charles the Bold, at Nancy, in 1477, he is said to have become "an enthusiastic patron of literature and the arts," attracting men of letters, artists and scientists to Saint-Dié, in the Vosges Mountains, where he established a lyceum of the fine arts in sculpture, painting, gold work and tapestry. Among the distinguished scholars at Saint-Dié at that period were Mattias Ringmann, Professor of Latin, from Paris; Martin Waldseemüller, of Friburg, Professor of Geography; Jean Basin de Sendacour, Latinist, and Walter Lud, who introduced a printing press into that society about the year 1490. This was only 40 years after John Gutenberg, at the neighboring town of Mainz, had invented printing with single cut metal type.

The facilities at Saint-Dié for the publication of a printed book prompted these men of letters to consider the preparation of a later edition of the Cosmography of Ptolemy, as so many new and important discoveries had been made since its last issue. Professor Ringmann, it appears, was sent to Italy about 1506 for the latest information from the navigators and explorers. He is said to have brought back a copy of a letter written by Americus Vespucius from Lisbon in 1504, which was printed at Florence in 1506. This letter was followed by three other letters describing his voyages, extending along the coast of Brazil to Rio de Janeiro and probably to the Rio Plata and the ocean farther south to the island of South Georgia.

It should be noticed that Vespucius states in his letter to his friend Soderini, giving an account of his first four voyages, that he had noted the most wonderful things, and had indited all in a volume after the manner of a geography, and entitled it "*Le Quattro Giornate*."

The records of these years of discoveries refer to reports made by Vespucius upon his return from his voyages to the King of Spain and the King of Portugal. Neither these reports nor the volume of "*Le Quattro Giornate*" have been discovered, although careful research has been made by historians of several countries in the archives of Spain and Portugal.

The informal letters of Vespucius to his friends, describing his first four voyages, therefore constitute the principal direct testimony of Vespucius in regard to his discoveries. The letters were originally written in Italian "in rude and ungrammatical language, jargonized by the admixture of Spanish or



Copy of that part of Map of 1507 that shows the continent of America

Portuguese words and idioms.” The first letter referring to three voyages was printed three or four times in 1503 and several times in 1504-1505. The Latin translation of all the letters was published in 1507. An early edition was published in Paris, where Vesputius’ friend Giocondo, who made the Latin translation, resided. A French version was also published, and this appears to have reached the members of the society at Saint-Dié, where a Latin translation was made by Jean Basin, of that coterie, who in 1503 was in Paris, and conveyed a copy of Vesputius’ “Epistola” to his friends at Saint-Dié. Ringmann, who had visited Italy for the latest reports from the exploring Spanish and Portuguese navigators, to use in the new edition of the cosmography of Ptolemy that was in preparation at the Saint-Dié press, returned with the first letters of Vesputius in 1506, when new charts were obtained that, it was said, came from Portugal.

Martin Waldseemüller, the cartographer of Saint-Dié, in April 1507, wrote to his friend, Joh. Amerbach, in Basel, that “I am on the point to print in the town of Saint-Dié the cosmography of Ptolemy, after having added to the same, new maps.” The Ptolemy was not published until 1513.

With the official letters of Vesputius at hand describing his four voyages, and the details of the locations he visited added to the new map that Cartographer Waldseemüller had in preparation, it is readily understood why the printing of the new Ptolemy was postponed, and the little book entitled “Cosmographiae Introductio” was published at Saint-Dié on April 25, 1507, containing the first printed record of the word AMERICA. There was such demand for this treatise that several editions were prepared and quickly distributed, together with one thousand maps of an issue entitled “The World Map of 1507.” There is one copy of the first edition of this book in the New York Public Library, as well as three copies of a later edition. The Ann Mary Brown Memorial Library of Providence, Rhode Island, the Library of the British Museum of London, and a *private collection in New York are believed to have one copy each of this very rare first edition.

By the courtesy of the Librarian of the New York Public Library, photographic copies of the title page, the following quoted statement, and the last page of the text, showing the colophon and the date of April 25, 1507, are reproduced with translations herewith.

* Sold at auction in New York, February 6, 1920, for \$2000.

This little book contains the first suggestion of the name AMERICA, but applied, it will be seen, to the country discovered by Vesputius, that was nearly all south of the equator. After referring to the three divisions of the earth's surface, Europe, Asia, and Africa, Waldseemüller states:

“But now these parts have been more extensively explored, and another fourth part has been discovered by Americus Vesputius (as will appear in what follows): Wherefore I do not see what is rightly to hinder us from calling it AMERIGE or AMERICA, *i.e.*, the land of Americus, after its discoverer, Americus, a man of sagacious mind, since both Europe and Asia have got their names from women. Its situation and the manners and customs of its people will be clearly understood from the twice two voyages of Americus which follow.”

The maps soon became scarce, and for several hundred years were not obtainable, and their original existence would have been doubted, although mentioned in the “*Cosmographiae Introductio*,” but for references thereto by later cartographers who copied various parts thereof in their maps, issued soon after 1507.

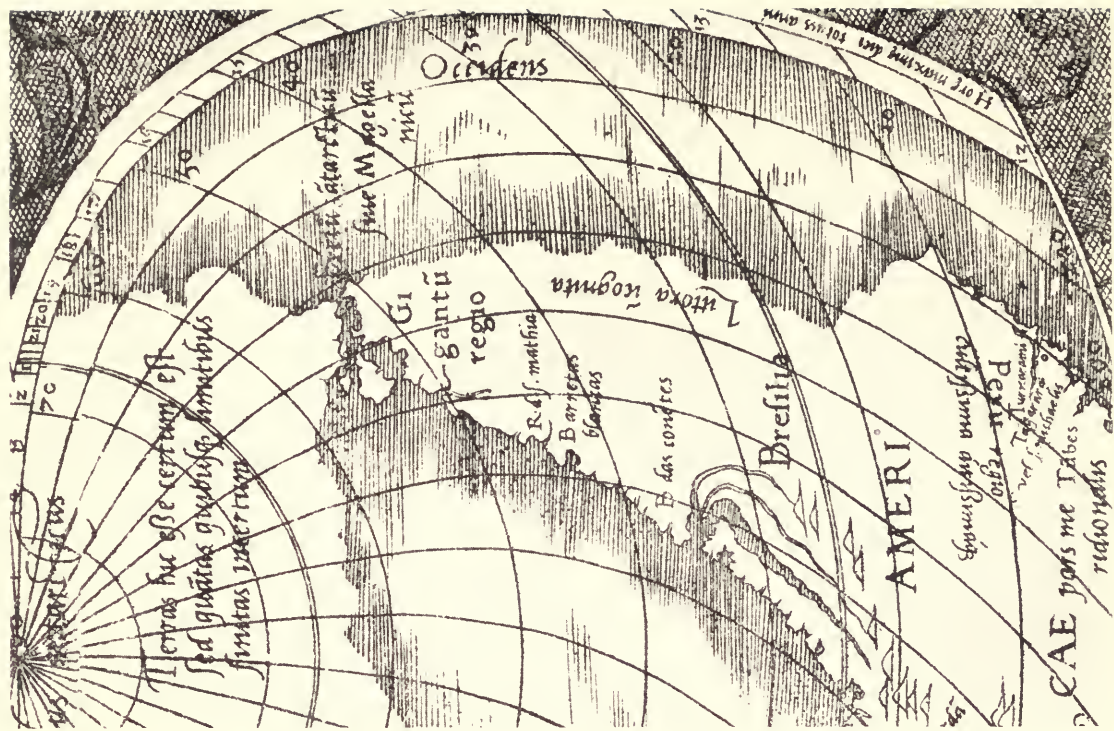
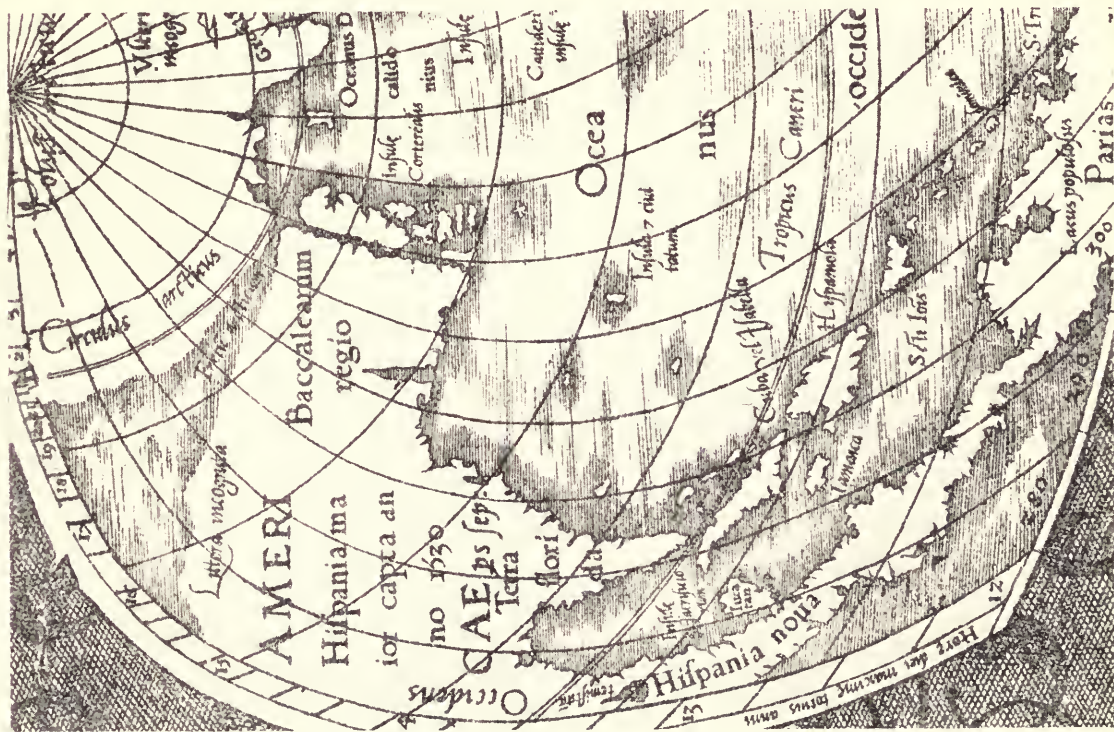
Two manuscript maps were discovered at Munich and Bonn, that bear the name AMERICA. On the Bonn map, of 1510, discovered in 1896, Henricus Glareanus had written a marginal note to the effect that he had copied it from the map of the Vosgean geographer Waldseemüller.

Until a copy of the world map of 1507 was discovered, 18 years ago, the earliest known map with the name AMERICA, excepting the Bonn map of 1510, above mentioned, was part of the papers of Leonardo da Vinci of 1514, which were found about 60 years ago in Queen Victoria's library at Windsor Castle.

It had therefore been long contended that if the Waldseemüller map ever came to light, the newly discovered western land indicated thereon would probably be found to bear the name AMERICA, as suggested in the book of Waldseemüller of 1507.

Bearing in mind that Martin Waldseemüller was the acknowledged geographer and cartographer of the society for the cultivation of arts and sciences at Saint-Dié, under the patronage of René, the reigning Duke of Lorraine, we can understand his intense interest in the accounts that he had received of the voyage of Americus Vesputius, and that the brief statement in his “*Cosmographiae Introductio*” contains explanations of geometry and astronomy thought to be necessary to an understanding of the descriptions by Vesputius of the location of the countries that he had discovered. As Waldseemüller had an up-to-date map in preparation for the proposed new edition of the “*Cosmography of*

THE FIRST MAP TO SHOW THE WORD AMERICA ON BOTH THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN CONTINENTS



Western Hemisphere as shown on Gerard Mercator's Mapamundi of 1538, from an original engraving in the library of the American Geographical Society

Ptolemy," he had the basis for the prompt production, with the latest discoveries, of a new map which should accompany his little book, for the purpose of the announcement to the civilized world of this most important revelation of other countries and people on the surface of the globe.

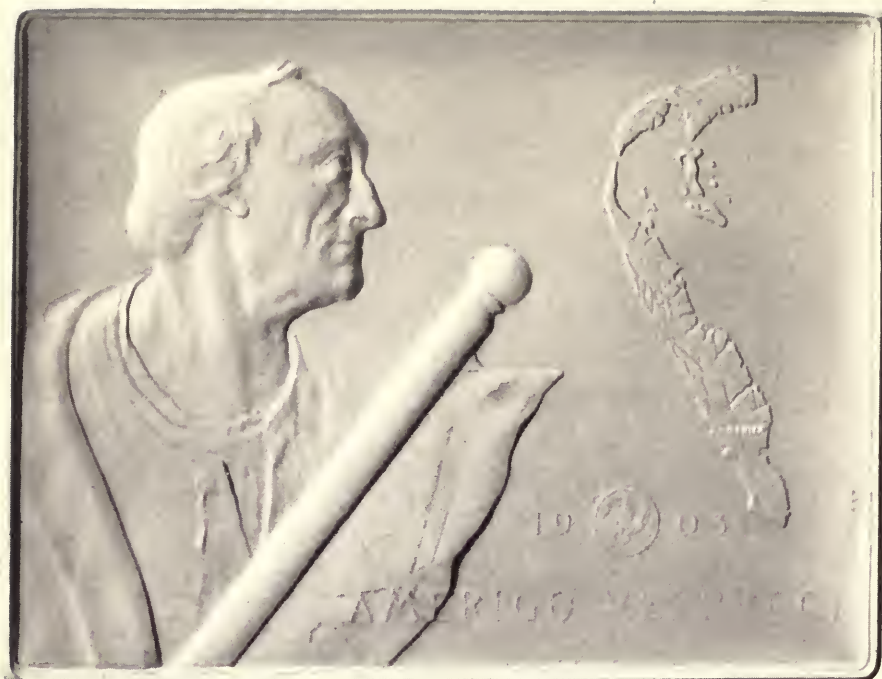
The book mentioned refers to the map as a representation of universal cosmography, both in *solido* and *plano*, what to Ptolemy was unknown, and lately discovered. From various passages in the book we learn that the globe and map were to contain representations of the newly discovered fourth part of the world. No particulars of size are given.

The discovery of the long lost Waldseemüller map of 1507 was made in 1901 by Joseph Fischer, Professor of Geography at the Jesuit College, Feldkirch, Austria, when engaged in research in the old library of Prince Waldburg at Wolfegg Castle in Württemberg, Germany. The Stevens prospectus states:

"Authorities have always differed considerably in their conceptions as to the probable form and size of the lost map of 1507, but no one ever suspected the existence of such a veritable cartographical monster as Professor Fischer so fortunately awakened from so many centuries of peaceful slumber in the library of Wolfegg Castle. The map is far too large to be engraved and printed on one sheet; in fact it comprises no less than 12 sheets, each having a separate border and being therefore complete in itself. From the scope of the general design it is evident, however, that the 12 sheets were also intended to be joined together, as in a wall map, so as to exhibit the whole world at one glance. Each sheet measures, on the average, 23½ inches long by 17½ inches high (exclusive of margin), and the complete map is four sheets long by three sheets high.

"From an art point of view, too, the boldness and beauty of the design, and the skill of the engraver call for universal admiration, especially when it is remembered that the 12 sheets, if joined up as a whole, would form one complete design, some 8 feet long by 4 feet 6 inches wide.

"The enormous size when thus made up as a wall map probably accounts for its complete disappearance, notwithstanding that, from a legend on the 1516 map, we learn that no less than a thousand copies of this 1507 map were printed. To the fact that the Wolfegg copy was not so made up, but was bound in a folio volume with the sheets folded in the centre and guarded from the back, we probably owe the survival of the only copy yet found of this



Medal issued in 1903 by the American Numismatic Society, Victor D. Brenner, Sculptor. The facsimile signature of Martin Waldseemüller is from his letter to Joh. Amerbach, of Basil, of April 7, 1507

magnificent cartographical monument. The maps are engraved on wood and the quality of the work is such as to cause admiration and astonishment at the surprising development of the art at this early date. The general design, when the 12 sheets are made up as a whole, is highly pleasing and artistic. The whole map is drawn on the modified cone projection of Ptolemy."

This map was aptly termed by Professor Jos. Fischer, its discoverer, "The Baptismal Certificate of the New World," as stated in a circular issued by Henry N. Stevens of London in 1902, offering the original of the map for sale at the price of \$300,000.

* Mr. Stevens adds:

"All honour then to Martin Waldseemüller, who not only gave in his book its present name to the newly discovered Western Land, but also, as a geographer and cartographer, first delineated in print the outlines of that glorious discovery, and placed thereon the beautiful and time-abiding name of AMERICA which he himself had so aptly suggested."

Waldseemüller applied the name AMERICA to the southern continent only, as being the lands of the discoveries and coast explorations by Vespucci. The name AMERICA was first applied to the entire western hemisphere by Gerard Mercator upon his Mapamundi of 1538, where it appears as shown on the original engraving of this map, now in the Library of the American Geographical Society of New York, as AMERI CAE, in separate lines, on both the northern and southern continents. The public naturally adopted the prefixes North and South as appropriate and separate designations for the two continents. It was not, however, until the middle of the sixteenth century that AMERICA was recognized "as the established continental name."

The Waldseemüller map of 1507 in reduced form is submitted herewith for detailed examination.

A medal in commemoration of Americus Vesputius and his discoveries was published by the American Numismatic Society in 1904. It was struck in gold, silver, bronze and copper, and limited in issue to 162 medals, the dies being defaced thereafter. The design of this medal represents the portion of the map of 1507 that shows the word AMERICA, a portrait of Vesputius, and a facsimile of the signature of Martin Waldseemüller, as signed to his letter of April 7, 1507, to his friend Joh. Amerbach, of Basel. This medal is shown herein.

The records referred to herein indicate, and in some important particulars may be said to prove:—

1. That Christopher Columbus and Americus Vesputius were acquainted during their respective periods of voyages of discovery, and were friends thereafter.
2. That the first four, and the principal voyages of Vesputius were made under commanders of recognized experience as seamen, while he acted at the request of the patron King as astronomer and cartographer, for which he was considered an expert.
3. That his reports to his Royal patrons, two made when in the service of the King of Spain and two when serving the King of Portugal, have not been found, nor any official reference thereto, nor the volume of his private notes that he declared his intention to publish. The only direct written evidence from him is contained in his personal letters to two intimate friends of his youth in Florence, in which there is no suggestion of a name for the countries he discovered other than a New World, of the finding of which all civilized Europe was at that period in expectation.
4. That the voyages of Columbus were directed mainly to the west in search of islands, mainland, and open waters to the west, while the voyages of Vesputius were southwesterly and southward, with the exception of his first voyage to the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico to Florida and northward along the coast as far as Chesapeake Bay.
5. That Martin Waldseemüller, a young professor of Cartography at the lyceum of Saint-Dié, in a small and remote town of the Vosges Mountains, in his efforts to keep informed about all new discoveries affecting his studies, obtained possession of the letters of Vesputius and at once recognized the importance of the information they contained, particularly as to the three voyages that disclosed a great continent mostly located south of the equator, and the Tropic of Capricorn.
6. That Waldseemüller, without ever having seen Vesputius or having any communication with him, and without his knowledge, suggested the name “AMERICA” because he considered it, for the reasons given, an appropriate designation of the continent discovered.



The Waldseemüller World Map of 1507 bears the word

AMERICA

*placed horizontally in the middle of the southern continent near the
line of the Tropic of Capricorn.*

*It thus appears that the inhabitants of that country and their
descendants constitute the only original Americans, that their*

southern continent is the only true America, and

that the map of 1507 is indeed the

Baptismal Certificate of the

New World

HOMMAGE
à la justice, à la moralité, et
à la vérité historique
en faveur du nom
AMERICAÏN

FRANCISCO ADOLPHO DE VARNHAGEN
Viscount of Porto Seguro
Historian

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